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Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

I am very concerned about news I've heard that large phone companies want to eliminate competition for the internet services. I own a small business, and in my community in Northern California there are several competing companies that offer internet service. The Comcast company is one, so is AT&T, and there is a small local company called Sonic that does also. Several years ago, I changed from AT&T to Sonic, because Sonic offered a faster service for a lower price. Just last year, I upgraded (still with the Sonic company) to a fiber optic connection that was more than 1 gigabyte per second, for a price that was about the same as I was paying before. Meanwhile the people at AT&T have been calling me several times each month, even though I repeatedly told them to stop, to try to sell me internet service. They are offering a traditional DSL service which is slower and more expensive than what I have now. When I told one of their representatives the speed I now have and the price I am paying - he called me a liar.

Please don't be misled by the lies and exaggerated claims of the phone companies, who insist that "there is effectively no remaining UNE-based competition in that marketplace". If we have an effective small competitor in OUR area, there must be numerous such small companies across America. The phone companies are obviously trying to stifle competition so they can charge more for internet service. And if you allow the big phone providers to have their way, you will be reducing competition and encouraging price increases for small business like mine. At a time when we are increasingly challenged by foreign businesses with their endless supply of cheap labor, we don't need our own government trying to shut down small internet providers just so a handful of big companies can make more money.

I would be happy to discuss this with you further.

Nick Franceschine